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100 Washington Street
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RESOLUTION 21-121

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF BOONTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO ESTABLISH AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRAILS

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Towns Council are committed to supporting, improving and advancing the use of local trails for the benefit, safety, health and welfare of the Town's citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, through providing a scenic opportunity to walk and safely enjoy such trails, citizens and visitors alike might be encouraged to patronize local businesses; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the Town of Boonton have reason to be proud of the historical events and the industry that led to its development, which profoundly influenced many aspects of its character and which is evident today in the layout of its streets and in the architecture of its buildings; and

WHEREAS, with the opening of the Morris Canal in 1830, and the New Jersey Iron Works in 1831, Boonton developed on a ridge above the Rockaway River to house the hundreds of workers to operate the Iron Works and the Canal's two locks and inclined plane; and

WHEREAS, many remnants of the Morris Canal and the New Jersey Iron Works exist today in the vicinity of the existing pedestrian trail through Grace Lord Park, including the Arch Bridge, two anthracite furnace cauldrons, the Rockaway River Dam, and it is expected that many more will be found as the result of further archeological investigation; and

WHEREAS, the Boonton Trails Committee, which includes representation by the Town of Boonton, the Canal Society of New Jersey, Boonton Historical Society, Liberty Historic Railroad and the New Jersey Highlands Coalition; and

WHEREAS, the Boonton Trails Committee was formed by these various stakeholders to coordinate their efforts to develop a heritage trail, and if feasible, a transportation heritage center and the running of a restored trolley car across a restored Rockaway River train trestle; and

WHEREAS, the development of the Heritage Trail and various historical resources and associated park amenities and features will require significant grant funding and applications made to many different and recurring grant sources, and that some of the grants may be in the name of the Town of Boonton upon approval of the governing body, and some in the name of the qualified non-profit organizations that are represented on the Boonton Trails Committee; and

WHEREAS, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) convened an organizing committee, and with subscribing municipalities, counties, the State of New Jersey, and interested non-profit organization, drafted the Morris Canal Greenway Plan for a recreational trail connecting the Delaware River at Phillipsburg with the Hudson River at Jersey City, following the route of the Morris Canal; and

WHEREAS, after the Morris Canal Greenway Plan was completed, it is now being implemented by the Canal Society of NJ; and

WHEREAS, while the NJTPA remains a source of grant funding for municipal and county Greenway Segments that are consistent with the Plan, it is contemplated that the Boonton Heritage Trail will be a significant section of this Statewide trail system, and would need to be consistent with the Greenway's design standards; and

WHEREAS, the nature of and terms of the relationship between the Town of Boonton and the Boonton Trails Committee has been informal to date, and now that the Boonton Trails Committee is moving forward with applications for significant grant funds, the Town may also in the future consider budgeting funds to accelerate the goals set forth for the Boonton Heritage Trail.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Boonton, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, that the Town of Boonton:

1. Shall establish an Advisory Committee on Trails;
2. The Advisory Committee on Trails shall consist of at least two members of the Town Council, to be appointed by the Mayor for a one-year term, and with each such term renewable at the pleasure of the Mayor every January 1st, or at the annual Reorganization Meeting.
3. The Advisory Committee members shall be liaisons to the Boonton Trails Committee, and keep the Mayor And Town Council apprised as to the work of the Boonton Trails Committee.
4. The remaining members of the Advisory Committee on Trails shall consist of at least one other member, appointed by the Mayor for a one-year term, with such term renewable at the pleasure of the Mayor every January 1st, or at the annual Reorganization meeting, and with such members comprised of interested citizens, irrespective of whether they reside in the Town of Boonton.
5. The Advisory Committee on Trails shall have no authority to encumber any funds or otherwise spend any Town of Boonton monies, nor make determinations on any matter, but instead shall make recommendations to the Mayor and Town Council for discussion and possible action, and with such recommendations considered in the normal course of the Town's business.

I, Cynthia A. Oravits, Clerk of the Town of Boonton, County of Morris and State of New Jersey, hereby certifies this to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Town Council on April 19, 2021.



Cynthia A. Oravits, RMC
Town Clerk